

He is also an amazing historian, especially knowledgeable about the minutiae of World War II. All of his friends, and I count myself lucky to be among those, revere our time that we spend with him. He is always entertaining, educational, and exceptional.

One of his daughters recently said to me: "Daddy is so social and he knows so many people that he could cause a traffic jam in Calhoun County." That is a lot of personality.

I spoke with him on the phone last week, after he received his diagnosis of a rapidly progressing terminal illness. After sharing his terminal diagnosis with me, he lightheartedly promised that, come what may, he would vote for me by absentee ballot next year.

Mr. Speaker, as the curtain draws closed on the life of my friend, I ask that we cast our attention on a man who lived an extraordinary life; a man who changed my community for the better; a man who cared for and supported many, many friends and family; a man who is, quite literally, larger than life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, who made me a better person, made my community a better place, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover, we are praying for you, my friend, and for your family.

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise in support of the 42,000 men and women of the United States Coast Guard, the vital public safety, humanitarian, and national defense missions they perform, and this House's passage yesterday of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Coast Guard members are the first responders of America's oceans, waterways, and coastlines, conducting varied missions, often at a moment's notice, including search and rescue, securing our Nation's ports and waterways, and conducting law enforcement operations.

In my district in New Hampshire, we have been home to the Coast Guard since its founding, and the Granite State has relied on its work to keep us safe and strong for generations.

Last month I had the privilege of meeting with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As I met officers and crew members and toured their vessel, I was struck by the critical nature of their missions and the challenges they encounter in executing them.

Cutters like *Tahoma* patrol international waters and interdict drugs coming to America's shores. Their work saves lives and makes our communities safer. The Coast Guard has been doing this work despite being chronically underfunded and under-resourced.

The Coast Guard faces cartels and smugglers with staggering resources and advanced technology, and studies show that only 20 to 30 percent of the illegal drugs coming to our shores are interdicted.

According to the leaders of the Coast Guard, the most significant factor in its inability to meet drug interdiction targets has been insufficient inventory of vessels and aircraft to support operations.

At a time when our Nation is facing a profound crisis of addiction, we can and must do more to ensure that the Coast Guard is fully funded and has the resources it needs to keep our country safe.

That is why yesterday's action to pass the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019 in a bipartisan way was so critical. This act supports the Coast Guard for the next 2 years with more than \$11 billion in discretionary funding each fiscal year, allowing them to address a backlog created by previous cuts.

An important bill I introduced was also included, the Fair and Equal Treatment of Women in the Coast Guard Act. This seeks to increase the recruitment and retention of women in the U.S. Coast Guard and improve gender diversity in this branch of the Armed Forces.

This comes in response to a study commissioned by the Coast Guard that identified barriers to attracting, recruiting, and retaining women, and recommended ways to improve gender diversity in the service. It is one important step to assure that the Coast Guard can continue to attract our Nation's best and brightest.

When we talk about keeping this Nation safe, let's remember the incredible work performed by our Coast Guard close to home and around the globe.

Let's show the Coast Guard Members that Congress has their backs, and let's continue to work collaboratively to ensure the Coast Guard has the proper support and policies in place to carry out its missions.

THE PLAGUE OF ROBOCALLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great uncertainty. I am uncertain that I can make it through this speech without being interrupted by a robocall, which has become a daily or, rather, sometimes an hourly nuisance.

For far too long now robocalls and spoofing have become a hindering plague upon the phones of millions of Americans. I hear from constituents on a daily basis about how their lives are habitually interrupted by phony phone calls, and how their cell phones, once seen as necessities, are now sources of frustration.

In many cases, these calls are dangerous and disguised, seeking to steal valuable information by tricking the

unsuspecting. In other cases, these aggravating calls disrupt important business, intrude on leisure activities, disturb family dinners and, even worse, are not restricted by the time of day.

□ 1030

These calls have been distracting, irritating, and deceiving Americans for long enough, and that is why I have introduced a bill called the Double the Enforcement and Fines of Everyone Associated with Terrible Robocalls Act, or, in short, the DEFEAT Robocalls Act. This bill ensures the harshest penalties for the individuals who are caught making illegal robocalls and spoofing calls. Simply said, the bill takes all the fines and penalties that those making robocalls currently face and doubles them.

It is time that we hold those who continue scamming Americans all across the country liable for their actions in a manner as serious as their crime.

I am encouraged to see Congress' recent legislative actions to prevent robocalls from being a daily hindrance, and I call on my colleagues to continue moving swiftly to send a bill to the President's desk so that we can restore Americans' trust when they answer their phones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KRAFT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Christopher Columbus Kraft, who served as NASA's first flight director and one of the agency's preeminent leaders.

Kraft passed away on July 22, 2019, at the impressive age of 95 years old and only 2 days after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

It is impossible to overstate the vital role that Kraft played in the formative years of NASA.

After graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, Dr. Kraft started work at NASA's precursor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; and toward the onset of the space race in 1958, President Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and tasked Project Mercury with getting America into space and putting a man into orbit.

During this time, Kraft essentially created the entire concept of mission control and successfully directed all six crewed Mercury missions, including those that made Alan Shepard the first American in space and John Glenn the first American in orbit.

In Project Gemini, Kraft was promoted to the head of mission operations. Now in charge of a team of flight directors, he served "on console" during many historic moments, including Ed White's first spacewalk in Gemini 4.

Achieving all of this proved to the country and the rest of the world that America could succeed in space, and certainly set the stage for the Apollo missions to the Moon.